

State owe a tremendous debt to Commissioner Merrill. She has been an excellent steward of the Agriculture Department, guiding our state through the economic recession of 2008 and a devastating drought in 2016—two of the greatest challenges our agriculture community has faced. She has been a tireless supporter and advocate for farmers, producers, and foresters in New Hampshire. From dairy and produce to ornamental horticulture and maple syrup, ours is an incredibly diverse state for agriculture and she has represented everyone so well.

Lorraine's service as commissioner was only the latest in a remarkable career of service both to agriculture and her community. She has been a teacher, author, founding member of the New Hampshire Coalition for Sustaining Agriculture, director of the New England Dairy and Food Council, and chair of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency State Committee. She continues to own and run a dairy farm with her family in Stratham, New Hampshire, where they have been honored by the American Farmland Trust for their leadership in conservation and environmental management best practices.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's Second Congressional District, I thank Lorraine for her many years of dedicated service to the Granite State. Her achievements will continue to benefit our state and agricultural industry. I am honored to recognize and congratulate Lorraine on her retirement and wish her the best of luck in the years ahead.

#### HONORING VALLEY SCREEN ON RECEIVING THE INDIANA GOVERNOR'S HALF-CENTURY BUSINESS AWARD

##### HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 26, 2017*

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Valley Screen of Mishawaka on receiving the Indiana Governor's Half-Century Business Award.

The Half-Century Business Award is a special recognition of a local company's service to its employees, our community, and the State of Indiana. Fifty years of growth and success is an incredible accomplishment, and I applaud the entire Valley Screen team for staying at the cutting edge of innovation in a highly competitive world.

Valley Screen employs more than 60 people in our community and provides quality services to some of northern Indiana's key industries. This local business is an exceptional example of the high-quality customer service, business ingenuity, and potential for growth that American entrepreneurs and workers strive to achieve. I am grateful for the good jobs Valley Screen continues to provide the hardworking Hoosiers in our community.

I also want to thank Karen Barnett, Valley Screen's president and CEO, for her exceptional leadership and for providing so much of the vision, perseverance, and innovation that has contributed to the success of this business in Indiana and beyond. For the past 20 years, she has played a crucial role in building our state's positive business climate. I am confident that with leaders like Karen, Indiana's economy can continue to flourish.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Indiana's 2nd District, I want to thank Valley Screen and all its hardworking employees, past and present, for their commitment to innovation and service to the Hoosier community for 50 years. Congratulations to Valley Screen on a half-century of excellence. I am excited to see what the future holds for you and your customers.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 26, 2017*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, October 25, 2017, I missed Roll Call votes 582 through 584 on the Rule providing for Consideration of the Senate Amendment to H. Con. Res. 71—Establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2018 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2019 through 2027. Had I been present for these votes, I would have voted: Nay on Roll Call vote 582 on the motion on ordering the previous question on the rule; Nay on Roll Call vote 583 on agreeing to H. Res. 580; and Yea on Roll Call vote 584 on the journal vote.

#### IN HONOR OF DANIEL CURRY

##### HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 26, 2017*

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Daniel T. Curry, a constituent of mine who tragically passed away on September 6, 2017. Daniel was born in Green County in my district and later moved to my hometown of Bowling Green, where he was the director of the Kentucky Legal Aid Benefits Counseling Program.

Daniel was a friend to everyone. As director of the Benefits Counseling Program, he helped countless Kentuckians receive their federal and state benefits. He worked with my office on several occasions, assisting with many casework inquiries that my office received. There was no constituent he would not try to help. In addition to his work at the Kentucky Legal Aid Benefits Counseling Program, he served as an adjunct professor at Western Kentucky University, served as a docent for Riverview at Hobson Grove, presented at the Bowling Green-Warren County Bar Association, was an advocate for elder abuse prevention, and participated in community theater.

Daniel touched many lives in Bowling Green and the surrounding counties. I send my prayers to Daniel's family and community during this time.

#### HIZBALLAH INTERNATIONAL FINANCING PREVENTION AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

##### HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2017*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 3329, the Hizballah Inter-

national Financing Prevention Amendments Act of 2017. This is an important piece of legislation strengthening economic and financial sanctions on Hizballah and its enablers, and I am pleased to support it.

Hizballah is an organization based in Lebanon that plays a major role in regional tensions in the Middle East. Based on existing intelligence, it is believed that Hizballah is simply being used as a proxy by foreign governments to fight against Israel and other western influences in the area. In order to prevent the situation from escalating, the first step is to prevent the group from being able to fund further military actions. H.R. 3329 would direct the President to apply sanctions that would freeze Hizballah's assets, prevent fundraising, and prevent financial institutions from working with the group. Furthermore, this legislation would extend financial sanctions to any foreign entity that provides funding to the group. The bill would also authorize the proper congressional committees to create reports on Hizballah's racketeering and international narcotics trafficking.

This legislation requires the President to report valuable information to Congress regarding the relationships among Iran, other foreign countries, and the Hizballah organization. Opening up this line of communication will help Congress better decide how to apply future sanctions against these state sponsors of terrorism.

With as many military bases as Georgia accommodates, I understand how conflict affects not only our nation, but also the young men and women who will be thrust into a needless international conflict. It is important that we take the necessary steps to prevent an escalation to prevent losing American lives in any conflict, which is why I support H.R. 3329.

#### HONORING MR. DAVID HARDT

##### HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 26, 2017*

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Deputy Fire Chief David Hardt upon his retirement from the Watertown Fire Department in Watertown, Connecticut after 32 years of service. Deputy Chief Hardt has been an instrumental leader in our state's firefighting community, and his legacy will contribute to the work of future generations of firefighters.

Deputy Chief Hardt first volunteered for the department in 1985, and in 1997, he became the Deputy Chief. Throughout his long tenure, his leadership skills and experience have been tremendous assets to the town. Deputy Chief Hardt has been willing to take on additional duties when necessary and to step up to oversee the department's work in the Chief's absence.

The Watertown Fire Department and surrounding communities have benefitted greatly from Deputy Chief Hardt's work over the past decades. His work was critical to the opening of the Cheshire Fire School to train future generations of firefighters. Never one to shy away from helping out his neighbors, Deputy Chief Hardt also served as a dispatcher for Naugatuck firefighters and as a fire marshal in Bethlehem and Morris. His dedication to helping others is an inspiration to all of us and